

OPINION 1862

***Aspidiphorus* Ziegler in Dejean, 1821 (Insecta, Coleoptera): conserved as the correct original spelling, and SPHINDIDAE Jacquelin du Val, [1861]: given precedence over ASPIDIPHORIDAE Kiesenwetter, 1877 (1859)**

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; SPHINDIDAE; ASPIDIPHORIDAE; *Sphindus*; *Aspidiphorus*.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary powers it is hereby ruled that:
 - (a) the correct original spelling of the generic name *Aspidiphorus* Ziegler in Dejean, 1821 is *Aspidiphorus*;
 - (b) the family-group name SPHINDIDAE Jacquelin du Val, [1861] and other family-group names based on *Sphindus* Megerle in Dejean, 1821 are given precedence over ASPIDIPHORIDAE Kiesenwetter, 1877 (1859) and other family-group names based on *Aspidiphorus* Ziegler in Dejean, 1821.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Aspidiphorus* Ziegler in Dejean, 1821 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Nitidula orbiculata* Gyllenhal, 1808;
 - (b) *Sphindus* Megerle in Dejean, 1821 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Nitidula dubia* Gyllenhal, 1808.
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *orbiculata* Gyllenhal, 1808, as published in the binomen *Nitidula orbiculata* (specific name of the type species of *Aspidiphorus* Ziegler in Dejean, 1821);
 - (b) *dubia* Gyllenhal, 1808, as published in the binomen *Nitidula dubia* Gyllenhal, 1808 (specific name of the type species of *Sphindus* Megerle in Dejean, 1821).
- (4) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names In Zoology:
 - (a) SPHINDIDAE Jacquelin du Val, [1861] (type genus *Sphindus* Megerle in Dejean, 1821) with the endorsement that it and other family-group names based on *Sphindus* are to be given precedence over ASPIDIPHORIDAE Kiesenwetter, 1877 (1859) (type genus *Aspidiphorus* Ziegler in Dejean, 1821) and other family-group names based on *Aspidiphorus* whenever their type genera are placed in the same family-group taxon;
 - (b) ASPIDIPHORIDAE Kiesenwetter, 1877 (1859) (type genus *Aspidiphorus* Ziegler in Dejean, 1821) with the endorsement that it and other family-group names based on *Aspidiphorus* are not to be given priority over SPHINDIDAE Jacquelin du Val, [1861] (type genus *Sphindus* Megerle in Dejean, 1821) whenever their type genera are placed in the same family-group taxon.
- (5) The following names are hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology:

- (a) *Arpidiphorus* Ziegler in Dejean, 1821 (ruled in (1)(a) above to be an incorrect original spelling of *Aspidiphorus* Ziegler in Dejean, 1821);
- (b) *Aspidophorus* Agassiz, 1846 (an unjustified emendation of *Aspidiphorus* Ziegler in Dejean, 1821 and a junior homonym of *Aspidophorus* Lacepède, [1801]);
- (c) *Box* Gistel, 1848 (an unnecessary replacement name for *Aspidiphorus* Ziegler in Dejean, 1821);
- (d) *Coniporus* Thomson, 1859 (a junior objective synonym of *Aspidiphorus* Ziegler in Dejean, 1821).

History of Case 2918

An application to conserve *Aspidiphorus* Ziegler in Dejean, 1821 as the correct original spelling of the generic name first published as *Arpidiphorus*, and to place the family-group name ASPIDIPHORIDAE Kiesenwetter, 1877 (1859) on the Official List, was received from Dr Joseph V. McHugh (*University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, U.S.A.*) on 26 November 1993. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 52: 44–47 (March 1995). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

A comment from Prof Alfred J. Newton Jr. & Dr Margaret K. Thayer (*Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.*), published in BZN 52: 264–266 (September 1995), supported the conservation of the name *Aspidiphorus* Ziegler in Dejean, 1821 as the correct spelling but opposed placing ASPIDIPHORIDAE Kiesenwetter, 1877 (1859) on the Official List as the valid name for a family-group taxon that includes both *Aspidiphorus* and *Sphindus* Megerle in Dejean, 1821. They proposed (BZN 52: 266) that the near-universal usage of the family-group name SPHINDIDAE Jacquelin du Val, [1861] be conserved for the taxon by Commission action by giving it precedence over ASPIDIPHORIDAE; the latter name was not proposed until Kiesenwetter (1877) but it takes the date 1859 from Thomson's tribal name based on *Coniporus* Thomson, 1859 under Article 40b of the Code (para. 8 of the application).

It was noted on the voting paper that approval by the Commission of Newton & Thayer's proposal would render SPHINDIDAE the valid name for the family when *Sphindus* and *Aspidiphorus* were considered to be confamilial; names based on *Aspidiphorus* would remain available for use for family-group taxa not containing *Sphindus*. Both names SPHINDIDAE and ASPIDIPHORIDAE (together with the relevant type genera and type species) would be placed on the Official List with endorsements to record their relative precedence.

Both sets of authors, McHugh and Newton & Thayer, favoured the conservation of the spelling *Aspidiphorus*. This was given on the voting papers as Proposal A. Placement of the family-group name ASPIDIPHORIDAE, but not SPHINDIDAE, on the Official List (Proposal B), and the proposed precedence of SPHINDIDAE over ASPIDIPHORIDAE by use of the plenary powers (Proposal C), were offered as alternatives for voting. Proposal B was that of McHugh (BZN 52: 46, para. 10(4)), Proposal C that of Newton & Thayer (BZN 52: 266).

It was noted on the voting paper that the reference cited in para. 9 of the application as 'Pakaluk, Ślipiński & Lawrence, in press' was published as: Pakaluk, J., Ślipiński, S.A. & Lawrence, J.F. 1994. Current classification and family-group names in Cucujoidea (Coleoptera). *Genus*, 5: 223–268.

Decision of the Commission

On 16 September 1996 the members of the Commission were invited to vote. At the close of the voting period on 16 December 1996 the votes were as follows:

Proposal A. Affirmative votes — 23: Bock, Bouchet, Brothers, Cocks, Cogger, Eschmeyer, Heppell, Kabata, Kerzhner, Lehtinen, Kraus, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Mawatari, Minelli, Nye, Papp, Patterson, Savage, Schuster, Song, Štys

Negative votes — none.

Proposal B — 6: Bock, Bouchet, Kabata, Lehtinen, Mawatari and Schuster.

Proposal C — 18: Brothers, Cocks, Cogger, Eschmeyer, Heppell, Kerzhner, Kraus, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Papp, Patterson, Savage, Song and Štys.

Ride was on leave of absence.

Dupuis commented: 'En Opinion 1855, Septembre 1996, au lieu de conserver le nom du poisson *Aspidophorus* Lacepède, [1801] nous avons pris une première décision ridicule (AGONUMIDAE Kirby, 1837) et risquons aujourd'hui d'en prendre une deuxième (emploi conditionnel le nom coleopteran d'ASPIDIPHORIDAE Kiesenwetter, 1877). En attendant, je refuse tout vote sur ce case'.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

- Arpidiphorus* Ziegler in Dejean, 1821, *Catalogue de la collection de coléoptères de M. le Baron Dejean*, p. 47 (an incorrect original spelling of *Aspidiphorus*).
- ASPIDIPHORIDAE Kiesenwetter, 1877, *Naturgeschichte der Insecten Deutschlands* (W.F. Erichson), vol. I (Coleoptera), part 5, Hälfte 1, p. 198.
- Aspidiphorus* Ziegler in Dejean, 1821, *Catalogue de la collection de coléoptères de M. le Baron Dejean*, p. 47 (incorrectly spelt as *Arpidiphorus*).
- Aspidophorus* Agassiz, 1846, *Nomenclatoris Zoologici Index Universalis ...*, p. 36.
- Box Gistel, 1848, *Naturgeschichte des Thierreichs für höhere Schulen*, p. viii.
- Coniporus* Thomson, 1859, *Skandinaviens Coleoptera, synoptiskt bearbetade*, vol. 1, p. 90.
- dubia*, *Nitidula*, Gyllenhal, 1808, *Insecta Svecica, Descripta a Leonardo Gyllenhal, Classis I. Coleoptera sive Eleuterata*, vol. 1, p. 243.
- orbiculata*, *Nitidula*, Gyllenhal, 1808, *Insecta Svecica, Descripta a Leonardo Gyllenhal, Classis I. Coleoptera sive Eleuterata*, vol. 1, p. 242.
- SPHINDIDAE Jacquelin du Val, [1861], *Manuel entomologique. Genera des coléoptères d'Europe, comprenant leur classification en familles naturelles, la description de tous les genres ...*, vol. 3, p. 224.
- Sphindus* Megerle in Dejean, 1821, *Catalogue de la collection de coléoptères de M. le Baron Dejean*, p. 102.